

## Ervin Currie

Lowe Veterans Appreciation Video – November 11, 2020

My name is Ervin Currie and I served in the United States Marine Corps. And I went in May of '68 – 1968, and I went to San Diego for my boot camp training, and then Camp Pendleton. I was stationed with 5th MT [motor transport]. I went from Camp Pendleton to Okinawa where I actually served the rest of my time there. I was a diesel mechanic, wrecker operator. I was head line mechanic for deuce-and-a-half trucks out on the line. I had five [?] that was working under my command; that I was in charge of.

Whenever they needed a wrecker operator, they sent me out to get them and bring the trucks back. And we also moved a lot of new vehicles that was coming in to Okinawa off of ships and everything that we had to back right down in the bellies of the truck – or the ships and bring them out and everything. So and I really enjoyed that and I was licensed to drive a 10-ton tractor and trailer.

I - once I got out in 1971, when I was discharged, honorably discharged, I came back home and joined the American Legion and I've been in the Legion for almost 18 years now that I've been a member, and I've been Commander there for six years in American Legion Post 153 in St. Johns, and I enjoyed doing that.

Also Honor Guard Commander for the military funerals. We go all over the place as far as doing military funerals wherever we are requested to go. It's an honor to do them services. Meet a lot of interesting people.

I didn't have a whole lot I did in the military other and just the time that I spent as a diesel mechanic and wrecker operator. Now when I got home from the service, I went into a couple different factories and worked in making fiber drums and steel drums.

And when I got moved down here, I drove semi for Meijer's for 20 years, and I retired from there in 2004 - retired from Meijer's driving truck.

And like I said, I was in American Legion Post 153 as commander. You're basically trying to get people to join and for the ones that served their time in the service and stuff it's a place where they can come and have taco night - tacos on Tuesday night, burger night on Friday night. We have excellent food. We are closed right now, but we're planning on reopening on October 27<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> [2020] for two days a week from 3:30 to 10.

I enjoy working with people and meeting veterans, and of all organizations. As long as you're an honorably discharged from the military you can be member of the American Legion.

We also have the auxiliary that's members of our post. For the ladies, their husbands can also join that now under their wives if they're members - if their wives were in the service. We have the S. A. L. who can - is also Sons of the American Legion. It's where they can join under their dad, or their grandfathers, or whatever. It's a good organization to be a part of and we really enjoy meeting people in the community and having just a good time.